

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants have added claims 9 and 10. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-4. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that the drawings are acceptable.

Claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abram et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,462,778) in view of Murphy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,799,082).

With regards to claim 5, the grounds of rejection allege that Abram et al. teach position information detecting and transmitting means for detecting position information and time information (citing column 3 lines 46-48) and the generating of place-specifying data on the basis of the position information (citing column 3 lines 45-65).

The grounds of rejection acknowledge that Abram et al. fail to teach the use of copy-guard protection for data. However, the grounds state that Murphy et al. teach a center system subjecting the position and time information with place-specifying data to copy-guard protection (citing Murphy et al., column 14 line 52 - column 15 line 19) and storing the copy-guarded signal in storage means of electronic equipment (citing Murphy et al., column 15 lines 6-7).

Therefore, the grounds of rejection allege that at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Murphy's encryption, authentication, and copy guard techniques with Abram's digital image file system because they

offer the advantage of preserving a digital image and location information in unaltered form, and allowing only authenticated individuals to view the digital image.

As noted, in this Office Action, the grounds of rejection propose to use the center system and encryption techniques of Murphy et al. in the digital camera of Abram et al. (see page 4, paragraph 8 of the Office Action). In this regard, as the grounds of rejection now have stated that Murphy et al. disclose the center system, this is also in contradiction with other features of the claim. For example, claim 5 recites that place-specifying data is generated by the center system. The grounds of rejection do not disclose how this place-specifying data could be generated by the alleged Murphy center system, nor is this feature disclosed in Murphy et al. As such, Applicants only indication of how this feature is taught is provided by paragraph 10 of the Office Action relating to claims 7 and 8, as well as paragraph 4 of the December 31, 2003 Office Action which argue that this feature is disclosed by Abrams. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the grounds of rejection are inconsistent.

Further, claim 5 recites that data is encrypted and transmitted to a center system where it is subjected to copy guard-processing. The grounds of rejection state that this copy guard-processing is disclosed by Murphy et al. at col. 15, line 52 - col. 15, line 19. However, Murphy et al. only discloses that stored digital frames cannot be edited, altered, or deleted. Copy guarding of these digital frames is not suggested. That is, Murphy does not suggest a feature whereby these digital frames are protected against copying. Thus, claim 5, and its dependent claim 6 are allowable at least for these reasons.

Claims 7 and 8 recite that encrypted information is authenticated, and then place-specifying data indicated by this encrypted information is generated. The grounds of rejection state that this authentication feature is disclosed by col. 15, lines 31-47 of Murphy et al. Applicants note that this section of Murphy et al. teaches authentication of an image downloaded from storage module 39. Applicants respectfully submit that this general disclosure of authentication of an image would not suggest the aforementioned feature of claim 7 of authentication of encrypted position information. Further, there is no reason that place-specifying data would be generated by this authentication process of Murphy et al at this stage. As discussed, the claims recite that place-specifying data is generated based on the authentication of encrypted information. In Murphy, at this point of authentication, the position information is already contained in the image. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 8 are allowable at least for this feature. In addition, Applicants note that features of claims 7 and 8 also are similar to those of claims 5 and 6 discussed above. For similar reasons, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the cited references.

Newly added claims 9 and 10 include features whereby position information is encrypted on the basis of an encrypted key which is predetermined for the position information. This feature of claim 9 is supported at least on page 8, lines 14-19 of the present specification. Likewise, this feature of claim 10 is supported at least on page 8, line 20 to page 9, line 4.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

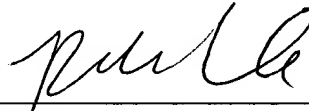
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/618,281

Attorney Docket No. Q60167

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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